THE

POTTERS' EXAMINER,

AND WORKMAN'S ADVOCATE.

"GOD, AND OUR RIGHT."

No. 3. Vol. 1. SATURDAY, DEC. 16TH, 1843. *Price One Penny.*

ON THE NECESSITY OF UNION.

[The following article has been forwarded to us by the Editor of the late Trades' Journal of Manchester. Out of respect to the writer,—an intimate friend of ours,—and its nice applicability to the United Branches of Operative Potters, and from the circumstance of its not having appeared in print before, we take the liberty of presenting it to our readers as a leader to this week's paper, unaltered in a single expression.]

In taking a view of the operations of the different systems which have been, from time to time, introduced in order to procure some change, for the better in the conditions of men, it is painful to perceive how little advancement has been made towards the attainment of our objects, and that we are yet only in the beginning of our march towards social and domestic happiness. It is painful to think that we are still, instead of enhancing comforts, but endeavouring to prevent the accumulation of evils. Instead of beholding the genial rays of universal happiness shedding their cheerful influence on all mankind, we are only endeavouring to snatch some share of individual comfort, regardless of any other person.

The result that must necessarily flow from such a state of things cannot for one moment be misconceived,—so many conflicting interests,—so many antagonistic schemes of improvement,—so much individual and class operations,—in fact, so many disunited plans, and rival objects, must, as a matter of course, impede the progress of any and all, and leave those engaged in them victims of disappointment and discomfiture. Who, that beholds the variety of movements now being made in every department of human speculation, whether political, religious, or commercial, and see most, if not all, receding, instead of advancing, but must be convinced of this truth. "Now is the time," is the rallying word from every portion. An hundred years ago it was the same, and in an hundred years to come it shall have been the same, unless some increased impetus be given to their exertions by the adoption of a universal system which must benefit all classes alike, and must succeed in coming into operation by the united energies of all.

Besides the one great and general good to be sought after and obtained, there are other interests which can be secured, and other advantages obtained, which affect only particular classes, but which like the rest had been hitherto sought for by disjointed and discontented portions of those classes, and which like the rest too brought much disappointment and discomfiture, some proceeded for a time and then stood still or receded, some giant difficulty, some dangerous obstacle presented itself, which it was necessary to move, in fact they were always removing difficulties which multiplied as they attempted to proceed, and which at length left those engaged in them in a labyrinth of inextricable difficulty.

Among the many bodies thus situated, none was more conspicuous than trades societies, if we commence the history of any trade, we must be amazed to find what a multitude of different exertions the members of that trade have made from time to time in order to procure these objects generally sought after by trades societies, and we must be much more amazed to find how similar all have been in their termination, some proceeded for a time with iron energy, these only increased the difficulty which surrounded their commencement, and perished prematurely; others more moderate commenced under happier prospects, but were unable to contend with the obstacles which presented themselves, and perished in like manner; but none of them owed their fall so much to the enemy they had to contend with, as

(Pate, Printer, Hanley.)

to the insidious friend that lurked upon their path in the shape of a neighbouring society, which watched its movements and took advantage of its errors in order to strengthen its If upon the ruin of its cotemporary. Thus instead of men, seeking the same end, engaged in the same pursuits and almost performing the same work, being a stay or strength to each other, they become by their pride, rivalry and folly the main obstacles to themselves in their progress towards the accomplishment of their objects.

It requires no great degree of mental vision to perceive where the enemy lies, and if the operations of the united trades association be properly directed, much must be gained towards the strength necessary to combat him, yet though the end is perfectly accessible, there are many obstacles to remove, merely rubbish to be got rid of before the ground is clear for full operation, yes the veriest rubbish on earth is to be removed, notions of superiority, pride, prejudice, and all the old rotten brick-bats of former structures must be destroyed, and common sense established in their places, then all is ready.

If the members of each branch of the five trades take an impartial view of their own circumstances, and place them in contrast with the others, they must be a little perplexed to find where this fancied superiority exists; the *smith* forges his work, in that state it is unfit for the purpose to which it is intended to be applied, it must go to the *mechanic*, from him to the *engineer*, the same may be said of the *moulder*, *millwright*, and each of the others, in fact each is so dependent on the other that none can be dispensed with, they are like the bellows blower and the organist, if one don't blow the other cant play, they are like the machines they construct, imperfect and useless, until perfectly united. Where then is the Superiority?

Again, in every large establishment, there is a considerable portion of each of these trades employed, and very often at the same piece of mechanism; if one be depressed, will that elevate the other? is the establishment upheld by any four of them? is any one kept there on sufferance? if one be oppressed what security has the other? if one be advanced is not that a star of hope to the others? must they not rise or fall, sink or swim together? where then is the superiority?

Again, the general objects sought for by each, as trades unionists are the same, has any one of those greater facilities to obtain those objects than the others? is there more talent, more experience, more moral worth, in one than the other? is one worth preserving, the other worth but ruining? one deserving all, others deserving nothing? can one accomplish its object, and prevent the others following the same track? can one enjoy them, the other not? in fact and in fine, are not the situations, objects and intentions of each and all so identical, and so dependent one upon the other, that they cannot be changed, accomplished, or performed, without mutual co-operation? Where, then, is the superiority? None. Away with the idea; 'tis our bane, our enemy, our ruin; 'tis to us what religious discord is to politics; 'tis an ignus fatuus, a delusion that lights but to deceive us; 'tis a moral scurvy, that not only irritates the skin, but burns in the marrow; 'tis the largest pile of the moral rubbish. Down with it! and its tottering dependants—pride, prejudice, rivalry—all must soon follow. Superiority indeed! Oh, 'tis a monstrous evil! I acknowledge no superior, but him whose heart burns with more philanthropy—him who endeavours to make his fellow-man better than I do; he is the real superior: 'tis in possession of such a virtue superiority consists. The proudest monarch that wears the diadem, if he want this, is an insignificant being. The poorest wretch that crawls in our workhouse, if he possess this moral gem this true philosopher's stone, he is the real superior,—he alone deserves to rank high in the scale of human greatness.

It is, therefore, pretty evident that those notions, which have been cherished with such care, were, are, and always must be, tremendous barriers on our progress towards the accomplishment of our desires. Through them we looked upon our fellow-labourers with the eye of jealousy, and with feelings of envy; we rejoiced in his prostration, exulted in his ruin, took advantage of his carelessness, and gloried in his failures: he, in his turn, felt the same dispositions towards us. Thus, rivalry was propagated, strife nourished, and the consequent failures of all was achieved. It is time the evil should be removed. It is time to slay the monster. But how is it to be done? Is it by resolving to divest yourselves of these ideas, and at the same time pursue different courses? Oh, no! Is it waiting until we secure our individual ends, and then resolve to help our neighbour? Oh, no! As well might we expect mercy from the conquering Saracen, or honesty from the plundering Arabs. But if we would divest ourselves of these mer-

cenary appendages, let there be formed an identity of desire, a unanimity of proceeding, a concentration of power: let us band together in the unriven chain of mutual good-feeling: let us, from Caithness to the Isle of Wight, from the Shannon to the Humber, form one indissoluble bond,---in a word, let us unite.

Who is to be blamed?

Mr. Editor,

Taking it for granted that it is the design of the Conductors of the Potters' Examiner, not only to expose and censure the base conduct of selfish and unprincipled masters, but likewise, whatever is selfish, base, and mischievous in the conduct and practice of workmen. I, therefore, beg leave to direct the attention of the latter to what I consider to be base, and very mischievous in us as workmen, generally; and, in some particular cases, as forming one of the chief sources of our woe. But, before noticing this, particularly, let me impress one truth on your consideration viz:---That it is naturally impossible for any one, of himself, to make or effect his own comfort and happiness, (so far as the necessaries of life are concerned) it never was designed to be so. We were to be the promoters of each others good. We are so constituted, and so circumstanced, as to render dependance on each other quite unavoidable and necessary. We are, Individually considered, only like so many distinct parts in a machine; which cannot do of themselves. There must be a mutual working together, or else the whole must either stop, or extra labour be forced upon the others. And just so is it with society at large. All Classes necessary to be employed, must act their part if we would avoid jarrings, and prevent ruin. These remarks will apply to either our Trade or our Union. Let us now proceed to notice one of the foulest, and most mischievous dispositions, that, influences the conduct of man, that is Inordinate Selfishness. This it is which manifesteth itself too commonly in most that we think, speak, or do. It blunts our feelings; it blinds, or perverts our judgement, and prompts to the basest, wickedest, and most mischievous actions. Examine it. Look at it in all its divers forms, as displayed in our nasty, "crambling," undermining, deceitful actions, one with another, in our workshops. See how it moves one man to catch hold of the best job, or the best kind of work, by some unfair means; and to shuffle the hardest and worst part on his work-mates---notice him, on some occasions, rising whilst others are asleep, and going to his work at an unusual hour, to gain an advantage over others. But here let me remark that I would not be understood to indicate that this is the general character of either Potters, or any other Trade! Still we know that there are too many of this sort. Again, selfishness induces others when work is scarce, to lay hold of more than their just share. They seem to think themselves justified in so doing. Some if they happen to work with one that they reckon hardly so bright as themselves, or that may be somewhat slower than they are. Then they will take advantage of him, in one way or other. Others will work almost night and day, to do all the work themselves, before they will let one who may be starving, to come and help them, from fear they should happen to be a little short before the weeks end. Then again, there have been, and perhaps still are, those when there is likely to be a slackness, will scheme if possible to get some one of the men turned away from his employ in order to secure themselves. Talk of selfishness! There is nothing less than selfishness throughout all such practices.

Furthermore, there are other workmen whose selfishness, leads them to actions still more hurtful and disgraceful than even these. I mean those men who, when they hear of other men standing out against a reduction of price &c. go, and offer themselves in those mens' places, at the reduced price. This is not "doing to others, as they would that others should do unto them." It is selfishness. And they resemble very much the birds, and beasts of prey. They are overing over and lurking, almost day and night, about, either union funds, or else the mens' places I verily believe that these sort of characters have cost the union more money, and trouble by far, than what the manufacturers have done. Such men as these have been the unions most subtle foes and have always been the greatest instruments in upsetting every previous union. Nay, are they not the greatest enemies of the union at the present time. The very Esaus and Judases who are selling their own birth-rights and betraying their fellow workmen by the very steps they are taking. I wonder how they can, for shame to shew their faces, after being guilty of such unmanliness and monstrous treachery. And here let me ask such characters, what they think would be the condition of this country, in a very short time, if men generally must follow their example? What would be the depths, of that slavery and degradation, into which the next generation would be sunk, if all were to act on the same principle that they were acting upon! Put these questions, direct, to your own consciences. Ask for an answer to each of them, of your better judgment? And, oh, remember that you are only co-partners, and not sole proprietors, of the several trades, or branches, to which you belong; and that, as such, you have no positive right to dispose of that which others, as well as yourselves, are depending upon for their daily bread. But I perceive, that I must come to a close; for it would require volumns to describe all the evils which follow from unjustifiable and inordinate selfishness. It lies at the bottom of all that has afflicted the world. What I wish to be done, is to get rid of it ourselves, as well as resisting it in others. The latter is right, but the killing of it in ourselves would make it still better. Let us all aim at leaving the world in a better state than what we found it in; by effecting such changes in the habits, usuages, customs, and conditions of mankind, as shall pave the way to brighter, better, and happier days for those that will come after us!

I am yours,

Very Respectfully,

AARON WEDGWOOD,

Burslem, Dec. 5, 1843.

Mr. Editor.

I wish, through the medium of your little periodical, to inform the Potters and the public generally, that the abominable system of "allowance" which we have laboured so long to destroy, and in which we almost fancied we had succeeded, is still practiced in this neighbourhood. A certain manufacturer whose name I will not mention, but who is well known as a minister of religion; a member of the Anti Corn-Law League; and the resident of a snug little "place," midway between Hanley and Stoke, is acting at the present moment on that disgraceful system; although he, himself, has spoken in the strongest terms against the same. He is now carrying it out to a considerable extent.

He has in his employ, at the present time, several hands who have all served seven years as apprentices, and who, consequently, ought to receive journeyman's prices. Some are working at half price, others at one third. Some of these have served their apprenticeship at his own works. This is abominable: especially in one who occupies the position in society that this individual does. He ought to know better. Other masters have been exposed, and I can see no reason why this manufacturer should be exempt.

By the insertion of the above, You will oblige yours,
A. FLAT

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We beg to inform "The district Board of Oven-men," that nothing short of impossiblity should have precluded the insertion to their excellent paper this week; but we are compelled to postpone it until next, to fulfil the promises, made to our correspondents, in our last week's number. We have a host of correspondence before us, which must inevitably stand over for many weeks to come. Our paper is already much too small for the demands made upon its columns. The non-insertion, therefore, of many communications must be attributed to want of space, and not to neglect on the part of the conductors.

Received (and shall meet with our earliest consideration) W. B. HANLEY; D. A. HANLEY; T. CARTWRIGHT, *Burslem*; M. S. HANLEY; T. M. LONGTON; *and* "A WELL WISHER."

S. Y. and other poets, are informed that the columns of our paper are not sufficiently large to admit of twelve canto poems, and that if they hope to see their productions in print, they must be short in matter and pointed in sentiment: two great requisites for the Potters' Examiner.

We have been disappointed in receiving the promised communication expository of the grievances of Mason's Turn-Outs. Will none of our friends at Fenton supply us with a few facts relative to the Patent Iron Stone (Iron Hearted) China Manufactory.

AN OPERATIVE TURNER, ASHBY WOLDS. *We are extremely sorry this valuable communication cannot appear in this week's number; but it shall, most certainly, have insertion in our next.*

THE POTTERS' EXAMINER,

And Workman's Advocate.

DECEMBER 16*th*, 1843.

We purposed, in our leader this week, addressing a letter to T. B, Rose, Esq. Stipendiary Magistrate of this neighbourhood, on the case of Joseph Clarke, Potter of Hanley: who was committed to Stafford Gaol, for the space of one month, to hard labour, for breaking an agreement entered into, in November last, between himself and the Messrs, Hackwoods. We have been induced to postpone the insertion of that article for the present, from the steps that are now being taken to ascertain the legality of that agreement, and the verdict, come to on the same,

Of all features that display the power exercised by Manufacturers over their men, the agreement system, entered into between Master Potters and their servants, is the greatest. Its glaring partiality;—its unblushing mockery at anything like reciprocity of interest, between master and man, make it appear more like a caricature upon common sense than a legal bond of civilized society. It is in short nothing less than the sale of human flesh and blood;—the transfer of one human being to the care of another, to be used, or abused, as the purchaser pleases, for the space of one year. What an elevating subject of reflection for a freeborn Englishman! nevertheless it is most true. Let us take, for example, the agreement entered on the books of one of the principal Manufacturers of Burslem, and signed by his men;—namely, that he shall find the latter "as much work as he conveniently can." "Conveniently can!" what latitude for villany is here. It is not six days' work *per* week, nor five, nor four, nor three, nor two, nor one; but vaguely as much as he "conveniently can." Is this not slavery? If such documents as these are to be legal, the power of life and death is placed in the hands of a subject over his fellow-man;—you give the power of which Lear had the desire, "to kill, kill, kill," just as he "conveniently can," But more of this hereafter.

In another part of our paper will be seen an address from Messrs. Kirk and Stones; two Delegates sent to this neighbourhood by the Sheffield Trades, for the purpose of stimulating the Potters to the repayment of that enormous sum so generously advanced, by the Sheffield Operatives, at the time of the late general turn-out.

If there be any one feature that displays, more than another, the generosity of one portion of the Operatives of Great Britain, and the remissness of another, the existence of this debt is that feature. The disinterested kindness of the Sheffield Trades; the efforts they made, the money they advanced, the zeal they displayed in behalf of the Operatives of this neighbourhood, call for the respect and gratitude, of every Working Potter: and not only the respect and gratitude, but the immediate, practical, *pecuniary* operations to remove this blot from off the character of our district,

We are happy to learn that arrangements are now being made for the completion of this good and righteous object. Let every Potter look upon it as a matter of *individual* labour; and reflect, that, though the sum be large, *energy* and *numbers* can do much!

To the operatives of the united branches of the Potter's Union.

FELLOW WORKMEN,

It has been commonly observed that delays are dangerous, if this be true it is of great importance that we

follow the advice of the wise man, "Whatsoever thine hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," Perhaps there is no subject which needs pressing upon the attention of men more than this, there is such an indifference manifested by men in general to those things, which have a tendency to promote their temporal welfare that it becomes difficult to arouse them from that lethargy in which they seem to be sunk, and to my mind it appears that this indifference seems to arise partly from ignorance of duty, and partly from prejudice formed by the inconsistency of unjust men, hence when they are reminded of their duty and called upon to make exertions they will frequently meet you with an objection of this sort, that the monies paid on former occasions have been appropriated to unjust purposes, and instead of being for the defence of our rights have gone to aggrandize others, but what of that, because we have erred in one instance are we to cease from exertion for ever, no, let the time past wherein we have wrought folly more than suffice, and as we believe that the system now in operation is based upon more wise and durable principles which debar unprincipled men from committing acts of injustice or fraud We have no need to fear, let us therefore perform our duty with a conviction that our efforts will not be in vain, we have an object to attain, that object is of the utmost importance to us all, so much so, that upon the manner we conduct ouselves now depends the interest and welfare not only of ourselves but of the generations yet to come, and shall we be indifferent about an object of such paramount importance, an object which founded upon principles of justice and equity, for be it remembered that we seek not for that which is either unscriptural or unreasonable, but that which God has declared is our rights, and has threatened to punish those who oppress the hireling in their wages, that which every principle of justice humanity and brotherly love approves, and every conscience uninfluenced sanctions a just remuneration for our labour, let us not then stamp infamy and disgrace upon ourselves by a stupid indifferance, but let the determination of our hearts be, never to rest satisfied until we have broken the iron yoke from our neck, and stand free as the light, and unfettered as the winds, the work we have to do is great, but not too great to accomplish, the obstacles which at first sight appear unsurmountable will vanish upon mature consideration; only let us quit ourselves like men, and we shall soon be in the possesion of that which once we thought impossible to obtain, there is work for all to do, those whom God hath endowed with talents can advocate the rights of the poor, those who cannot do this, can forward it by your small pittance, for small it is when compared with the benefits which will follow, and those who possess neither talent to advocate, nor money to support can do it efficiently by standing true to each other united as the heart of one man, let us not then shrink from our duty, whatever sacrifice we may have to make, but pursue a straight forward course regardless of the smiles, and fearless of the frowns of any.

I remain yours, in the
Bonds of Union,
W. B. HANLEY.

Hanley, Dec. 7th, 1843.

To the Potters, Miners, and Traders generally, of the Townships of Longton, Fenton, and Stoke-upon-Trent.

THE Address of the Board of Directors of the intended Working-man's Hall and Political and Scientific Institute, for the moral and social improvement of the Working Classes and their fellow-labourers, in the search of Knowledge, Truth, and Liberty:—

We, the inhabitants of the townships of Longton, Fenton, and Stoke-upon-Trent, wish most respectfully to call the attention of the residents of these districts to a subject which affects the interests and convenience of the trades and working classes of these neighbourhoods in general. For this purpose, we, whose names are undersigned, in common with others, have considered it advisable to put forth an address to the parties above named, to excite enquiry on the subject, and stimulate exertion for the accomplishment of the object brought before the public in this address.

The object of this appeal is the raising of a building, to be denominated a Working-man's Hall, for social, educational, and political uses. We are of opinon that this is a wish much participated in by many of the respectable inhabitants of these townships. Firstly, from the circumstance of there being no building of suitable dimensions available to the uses contemplated by the projectors of the object of this address. Secondly, on the grounds of economy; there being a considerable saving of money, owing to consolidation of the expenses of the various societies that may agree to hold their meetings, and transact their business, within the walls of the intended building. Thirdly, because we consider that the delivery of Lectures, on useful and interesting subjects, will tend much to refine the minds, and improve the moral habits, of those who are wise enough to avail themselves of the advantages of the intended institution; for who can foretell the social and political benefits that would accrue from Halls of this description?—for what reflecting and philanthropic mind can witness the scenes of ignorance, which everywhere press upon his notice, for the want of institutions of this description, and not come forward, and contribute his mite towards such an object?—an object which would be a means of dispelling those mists of ignorance that have long darkened the minds of our fellow labourers!

It is, therefore, confidently hoped that those who are favourable to the moral elevation of the people, and the convenience of the inhabitants generally, will aid in the promotion of this useful and laudable object.

Signed, on behalf of the shareholders and directors,

George Cartwright, President, (Packer,) Fenton-lane, Fenton.

Samuel Allerton, Vice-President, (Potter,) Honeywall, Stoke-upon-Trent.

John Naylor, Church-street, Longton, (Tailor.)
John Humber, (Clog and Patten Maker,) Church-st., Longton.
} *Joint Treasurers.*

William Nicholson, Church-street, Longton, General Secretary, to whom all communications must be addressed, and every information may be had.

Committee Room, New Inn,
Church-street, Longton.

At a public meeting, held on Tuesday night, Dec. 5 1843, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to :—

That a copy of the Address be sent to the POTTERS' EXAMINER, for insertion.

GEORGE CARTWRIGHT.

December 5, 1843.

THE PATRIOT.

(Continued from our last.)

When Long Tom Black returned from his charitable errand to the provision store, he found the poor widow recovered from her swoon, bending over the pallet of her maniac daughter, and surrounded by all the kind hearts and willing hands of the neighbourhood. Some were busily prepared in making a little warm gruel for the deranged girl; others were engaged in comforting the almost broken-hearted widow; whilst some seemed lost in terror at the scene arround them.

Indeed it was a fearful scene to look upon. The dim light that filled that crowded chamber; the anxious faces; the squalid forms; the wretched furniture; and, above all, the shrieks and ravings of that poor maniac girl, formed a picture frightful to look upon, and not easily to be forgotten.

"Take this dear," said a matronly woman, handing, at the same time, a small cup of warm gruel to the deranged girl,—"take it,—it will do thee good."

"I dare not," shrieked the girl;—"I dare not eat infant's eyes!"

"Tis gruel," said the good woman;—nothing but gruel. Come, dear, taste and try."

"Taste eyes:—infant's eyes;—eyes filled with tears, and starting with pain?—I dare not!" shrieked she, again, in a voice that made the surrounding by-standers shudder with horror. "Come hither dame" said she, lowering her tone to a stifled wisper, clutching the matron by the arm, and drawing her down towards the bed;—"come hither, and I will tell you a merry tale;—a lively, cheerily, laughable tale, Hush," continued she, as the good woman was about to speak,—"hush, and I will tell you all. He came last night——"

"Who came?" asked the matron.

"Death," said the maniac;—"Death! That merry Old Fellow, without eyes or flesh;—Oh he is a merry Old Man! He came in his cold, dry bones, placed his hands upon my head,—my hot burning head,—and wispered, in his cold, damp breath, 'come, come with me,' and, instantly I was transported to the world beyond the tomb; and a merry world it was!—ha, ha, ha!—and the poor maniac laughed, wildly. O! it was a merrily, cheerily, lively world, for all was death:—death! The birds were dead; the trees were dead; the flowers were dead!—all living things that swim, creep, walk, or fly, were dead!—the very clouds were dead, and hung, movelessly, in the dead and stagnant air! I laughed, but my voice died upon my lips!—I shouted, but sound was no more!—I shrieked and laughed again, but all was moveless! lifeless!—still! Cold heaps of mouldering corpses were spread around me in all the various attitudes of death! O! it was a rare sight! Some were calm as infants sleeping; whilst others had passed in grim, hard, struggling death:—and I laughed again, and again, and again, for it was *famine!*—FAMINE that had destroyed them all! They looked hungry even in death. Their tongues were cracked, and they were fleshless almost to the bone. Old and young,—rich and poor,—all,—all—all had been destroyed,—one by one,—moment by moment,—by cheerless, hopeless, helpless famine!—ha, ha, ha!—what a rare Old Fellow is Death! But Ah! he comes again," wispered she, pointing to Old Tom Black, who at that moment entered the room, after having been absent a few minutes for the purpose of despatching a neighbour after a physician, "look, look, he comes!—What a merry Old Fellow is Death!"

"You are mistaken, lassy," said the simple-hearted man; "'tis none but Old Tom Black;—Long Tom Black the Collier."

"Hark! Death speaks," shouted the maniac, and was about to leap from the bed, but was prevented by the surrounding neighbours, who held her down to the bed. "I come," shrieked the poor girl,—I come;—let go my heart strings;—your jagged fangs lie deep in my torn head;—help, Death! help? Oh God my heart!—let go your hold;—it moves;—it strains;—it cracks; it breaks;" she said, and the next instant the poor woman sunk, senseless, on her pillow.

There is a point in human suffering;—a climax to mental anguish, that leaves the over-charged nervous system dull, deadened, and stupified. It is the point at which hope becomes destroyed, and the world has nothing to yield for which life is desirable. It is the tomb of all earthly prospects; at which sympathy, the goaded, vexed, and crushed feelings of humanity are blighted, and buried.

To this climax of human misery, the poor widow

Stanton had arrived. Grief on grief, want on want, pain on pain, had so loaded, and oppressed her over-charged brain, that, when this last burst of family suffering descended on her house, it snapp'd, as it were, the power of mental perception; crushing all sympathy; paralyzing all energy; and leaving its victim a poor hopeless, helpless, childish creature.

She sat by the bed of her maniac daughter, who, from her late violent exertions, had sunk into a gentle sleep. She seemed dead to all that was passing around her No word of sympathy could excite an answer:—all was silence and stupefaction. Tis true her eyes were directed towards the face of the sleeping girl; but they were fixed and meaningless. The only sign of life which she gave was the determination she displayed to remain on the spot she then occupied; close to the pallet of her unfortunate girl. No persuasion could remove her from there. The words, even, of Old Tom Black were, for the first time, lost to her. She sat the melancholy picture of a crushed and broken heart.

An hour past, and still she was there. Another and another past, and still the poor widow was there. At length daylight came, and yet the crushed one was there. And when her poor daughter opened her eyes, after a long and refreshing sleep, she heeded not the calmness that had come over the spirit of her girl; but sat motionless, fixed, and statue-like as stone.

"Mother," said the poor girl, with an expression of joy in her large blue eye, "Mother, I am dying, but dont you be frightened. O! it will be such a release for my poor heart to leave this unfeeling world; and I have had such a beautiful dream;—such a cheering prospect of the future! Methought that the skies opened, and, far in the deep, blue vault of space, another and a brighter world was open to my view. Wing'd messengers of peace came on beams of many coloured light, troop after troop;—radiant with glory; filling, with ethereal forms, the vast expanse of heaven; and, as they passed me on their celestial way, they beckoned me to follow. There were choirs of celestial music; and banners,—silvery banners,—inscribed with "REST—REST ETERNAL!." And thus they came, and went, in joyful and innumerable bands; smiling upon me as they past, and wispering peace,—peace to my troubled soul; and,—O! mother, look, look! they are coming again!—smiling as before!—beckoning me to follow;—I come,—I come," breathed the dying girl, stretching forth her arms, whilst a heavenly smile played upon her features, "I come—I come"—and the poor girl sunk lifeless on her pillow:—a victim to *famine* in a land of PLENTY.

(To be continued.)

INDEPENDENCE. To be truly and really Independent, is to support ourselves by our own exertions.

To the Editor of the "Potters' Examiner."

SIR,

Please to insert this in your next number of the Examiner, and you will oblige, S. M.

A general Meeting of the friends and supporters of the Political, Moral, and Social improvement of the People, will be held, on Monday Evening, Dec. 18th, at Seven o'Clock, at the house of Jeremiah Yates, Temperance Coffee House, Miles' Bank, Shelton, to consider the propriety of appointing a Committee to arrange a plan for the erection of a Working Mans' Hall, in this District.

All the old Subscribers and Shareholders are particularly requested to attend, to assist in carrying out the above object.

Hanley and Shelton, Dec. 12th, 1843.

Mr. Editor,

SIR,

I am happy to hear that the several Branches of Potting have formed a Union, each Branch by itself; but some have carried it out to a greater extent than others:—They have formed it into a kind of Sick Club; not only to support their rights (which are just and reasonable) but to assist them when sick, and to help to bury them.

I ask, what man would not come forward, and feel it his duty, to support so noble a cause? I should say there was not one, who studied his own interest and that of his fellow man, who would linger behind. The cause is a good one, and likely to prosper. God grant it may! for he hath given to man the power to defend his rights; and uniting together is the only method of putting that power into action; for it is well known that "Union is strength," and that the labourer is worthy of his hire!

I must conclude by wishing them much prosperity in so glorious an undertaking!

A WELL WISHER.

To Editor of the Potters' Examiner.

SIR,

I am happy to inform you, that the Operative Painters and Gilders are now completely organized. The Potteries have been divided into districts;—namely, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, and Longton, at which places weekly District Meetings will be held, for the enrolment of members, and the receiving of Subscriptions. A Central Committee has been formed out of the District Committees to regulate the general proceedings of the Society. This Committee will hold its sittings every Monday Evening at the New Inn, Hanley; to which place all communications to the body must be forwarded.

A good spirit prevails, and we have every prospect of unity of action in the great and good cause in which we are combined. AN OPERATIVE GILDER.

Hanley, Dec. 14th, 1843.

To the Editor of the Potters' Examiner.

Sir,

We should feel obliged by your allowing us to make a few remarks in your excellent little work : a work calculated to be of extreme benefit to the operatives generally in this district; particularly at a time when avarice and selfishness is carried to its highest summit,

Sir, we are a deputation from a great body of workmen in the town of Sheffield, to the operative Potters in Staffordshire. Our object is to get back a portion of that money which we so generously lent when the Potters where in the greatest distress imaginable. When starvation was pictured in almost every countenance, we braved the winter's blast and the summer's heat to serve them. Strangers as we where, we held out to them the hand of friendship; we endeavoured to prevent, and no doubt did prevent, a great number of families from starving; we almost moved heaven and earth in their favor; we left no means untried to do them good; our exertions were backed by advancing them the enormous sum of £2193. Truly, Sir, this will be a sufficient reason for our present visit amongst them. We appeal to every Man, Woman, and Child, in the Potteries, on behalf of the much-injured Workmen of Sheffield, who have parted with their all, in feeding the hungry, and protecting the oppressed,. The question now is, shall our appeal be made in vain. We trust not. Common honesty tells us, that we must no longer be trifled with, we feel convinced that the time is arrived when our cause will be advocated by every *honest* thinking potter. It is with pleasure that we refer to a most respectable and spirited meeting, which took place on Tuesday evening, the 5th of December, at the Lamb Inn, Hanley, composed of delegates of the various branches from every district, at which a resolution was unanimously passed strongly recommending an additional contribution to be paid towards alleviating the distress of those trades in Sheffield, who are now suffering so many severe privations. Sir, we congratulate the potters generally on their improved condition and on their future prospects, We are aware of the numerous difficulties by which they are surrounded ; but, let them bear in mind, that their prospects, which have so long been clouded, now wear a more brightening aspect. Let every man consider the subject individually, and act with a determination worthy both the cause and himself, then we shall not fear the result! The Sheffield workmen expect every potter to do his duty!

Sir, we beg to subscribe ourselves
Yours, very respectfully
JOSEPH KIRK, Filesmith.
THOMAS STONES, Sawmaker.

Perseverance in a good cause, is sure in the end to be rewarded with success ; and although difficulties, may, for a time, retard ; they must ultimately give way before steady perseverance.

To the Editor of the Potters' Examiner.

Sir.

You will perhaps have no objection of allowing us, through the medium of your paper, to inform our friends and the public of the steps we are about to take to remove ourselves off the funds of the union. After suffering for some time in the Good Cause, we have at length come to the resolution of commencing in the sale of Blacking and Furniture and Brass Paste. &c. &c. so that any little custom, which our brethren in the Union, or the public at large, may have to give relative to these articles, will be thankfully received, and gratefully remembered, by

Yours in the bonds of Union,
THOMAS KNIGHT, JAMES LEES.

Hanley, Dec. 12th, 1843.

Poetry.

THE LAST OPPRESSOR,

A DREAM.

I dreamt that oppression's days were o'er,
And tyranny weilded its sway no more;
Not a whisper was heard of labour's wrongs,
For labour enjoy'd what to labour belongs,
And mankind were happy as they could be,
For this was the midday of liberty!

Yet methought of an isolated case,
The last remains of that hateful race
Who had long, a power despotic us'd;
And the hollest rights of man abus'd:
And he had been from society cast
A baneful blot of infection's blast:

I saw him, but, oh, he gasped for breath,
As he struggled with that dread monster, death!
His heart it ached from its inmost core,
And the cold sweat oozed from every pore,
Feirce was the agony, wild the pain,
That body and mind did then sustain.

He thought of the cursed course he'd run,
Of the deep and numerous wrongs he had done,
And he shudder'd with horror at the doom
That awaited his soul beyond the tomb;
Conscience exerting her direst force
O'erpower'd his mind with deep remorse.

But at length life's closing scene drew nigh
And death had fixed his rolling eye.
Not a friend was near to lend his aid,
Nor to see death's last obsequies paid:
And fiends bore his soul away to dwell,
With his kind in the lowest, the darkest hell.

HANLEY. J. MOUNTFORD.

Printed for the Executive of "The United Branches of Operative Potters," and Published by W. Evans, Brunswick Street, Shelton; Sold also by Brown, Longton; Dent, and Yates, Shelton; Manley, Burslem; Fox, Tunstall, &c. &c.

BATE, PRINTER, HANLEY